AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-31 as shown below.

1. (previously presented) A communications cable, comprising:

a tube longitudinally surrounding a hollow core and having a user accessible area; and

a first group and a second group of conductors disposed in the hollow core,

wherein the first group of conductors comprises:

a first conductor, circumscribed by a first shade of a first color selectively applied to the first conductor at the user accessible area; and

a second conductor, circumscribed by a second shade of the first color selectively applied to the second conductor at the user accessible area,

wherein the second group of conductors comprises:

a third conductor, circumscribed by a first shade of a second color selectively applied to the third conductor at the user accessible area; and

a fourth conductor, circumscribed by a second shade of the second color selectively applied to the fourth conductor at the user accessible area.

2. (previously presented) The communications cable of claim 1, wherein the first and second conductors are a twisted pair.

3. (currently amended) The communications cable of claim 2, wherein the first and second shades of the first color are operable to identify the first and second conductors if they become untwisted.

4. (previously presented) The communications cable of claim 1,

wherein the first group of conductors further comprises a fifth conductor, circumscribed by a third shade of the first color selectively applied at the user accessible area, and

wherein the second group of conductors further comprises a sixth conductor, circumscribed by a third shade of the second color selectively applied at the user accessible area.

5. (currently amended) The communications cable of claim 1, wherein an inner and an outer layer of insulation circumscribes the first conductor and wherein the first shade of the first color is selectively incorporated into the outer layer.

6. (currently amended) The communications cable of claim 1, wherein the first shade of the first color is located in insulation of the first conductor.

7. (previously presented) The communications cable of claim 1,

wherein a first numerical value specifies a level of the first color in the first shade of the first color, and

wherein a second numerical value specifies another level of the first color in the second shade of the first color.

8. (previously presented) The communications cable of claim 7,

wherein the first numerical value and the second numerical value are classifications on a numerical color scale,

wherein the first shade of the first color and the second shade of the first color are only different enough to support visual color differentiation by a human installer of the communications cable, and

wherein the communications cable further comprises a binder and a ripcord.

9. (previously presented) The communications cable of claim 1, wherein:

the first conductor is a first optical fiber with the first shade of the first color applied directly thereon;

the second conductor is a second optical fiber with the second shade of the first color applied directly thereon;

the third conductor is a third optical fiber with the first shade of the second color applied directly thereon; and

the fourth conductor is a fourth optical fiber with the second shade of the second color applied directly thereon.

10. (previously presented) A communications cable, comprising:

a jacket defining a core and providing a location for user access; and

at least two conductors within the core,

wherein exclusively at the location, a first conductor is circumscribed by a first tint of a color directly adhering to the first conductor and a second conductor is circumscribed by a second tint of the color.

11. (original) The cable of claim 10, wherein the first and second conductors are a twisted pair in the cable.

12. (previously presented) The cable of claim 10, wherein the difference between the first and second tints of the color can be distinguished by the naked eye.

13. (previously presented) The cable of claim 10, wherein the first tint of the color is located in an insulation for the first conductor, and wherein the second tint of the color is located in an insulation for the second conductor.

14. (currently amended) The cable of claim 13, wherein the insulation for the first conductor comprises an inner layer and an outer layer exclusively comprising the first tint of the color ~~entire length of insulation for the first conductor contains the first color~~.

15. (previously presented) The cable of claim 10, wherein the first conductor comprises a first optical fiber, the second conductor comprises a second optical fiber, the first tint of the color is applied directly to a surface of the first optical fiber, and the second tint of the color is applied directly to a surface of the second optical fiber.

16.-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A communications system, comprising:

a first and second group of cables, wherein each group of cables contains at least two optical fibers, ~~and~~

wherein a first optical fiber in the first group comprises a UV coating having a first tint of a color, and

wherein a second optical fiber in the first group comprises a UV coating having a second tint of the color.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]

20. (previously presented) A communications system comprising:

a cable comprising a first and a second optical fiber, wherein the first optical fiber has a first color of ink applied directly thereto, and wherein the second optical fiber has a second color of ink, providing a lighter tint of the first color, applied directly thereto.

21.-27. (canceled)

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]

28. (previously presented) A method of making a cable, comprising:

providing a first insulated conductor and second insulated conductor;

identifying a location along the first insulated conductor and the second insulated conductor for user access;

at the identified location, selectively providing the first insulated conductor with a first color and a second insulated conductor with a second color having a lighter tint of the first color; and

providing a jacket over the first and second conductor.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, including providing the insulation for the first conductor with the first color and the insulation for the second conductor with the second color.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]

30. (currently amended) A method for making a cable system, comprising:

providing a first group of cables and a second group of cables, wherein each group of cables contains a plurality of cables;

providing, at a selected longitudinal location, a first cable in the first group with a first color and a second cable in the first group with a second color having a lighter tint of the first color; and

providing a jacket over the first and second group of cables.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]

31. (previously presented) A method for identifying conductors within a cable, the method comprising the steps of:

determining an access location along the cable;

providing the cable with a first optical fiber and a second optical fiber; and

at the access location, selectively covering the first optical fiber with a first color and the second optical fiber with a lighter tint of the first color.

[This section has been intentionally left blank.]